

ticle which we sent abroad to exchange for the products of other nations; and is relied upon at this time, by those who grow it in this State, almost exclusively to supply them with the means of purchasing the foreign productions they are in the habit of consuming. The number of persons engaged in the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco, has always formed a large and respectable portion of the inhabitants of our country. In an address, published by a committee appointed by the Convention of Tobacco Growers, which met at Washington in May last, composed of Philip Triplett, Daniel Jenifer, Robert W. Bowie, and John Mercer, esquires, the number engaged in the production and manufacture of tobacco, is stated to be one million five hundred thousand, or one-tenth part of the whole population of the Union.

The history of the tobacco trade shows that it has been made the victim of oppression and imposition, beyond that of any other article which has entered so largely into the trade of civilized nations: it has been compelled to bear the burthen of every sort of imposition which could be heaped upon it. It appears to your committee to have enjoyed the fostering care of neither its producer nor consumer. We are at a loss to account for the indifference which seems to have pervaded the minds, for so long a time, of those who were immediately interested in its production and manufacture. It is the opinion of your committee that a more lenient course towards it would have greatly redounded to the interest of the producer, manufacturer and consumer, without injury to the revenue of those nations trading in it. If those nations who have seized upon this article as a medium through which to extort large sums of money from those of their subjects who consume it, in the shape of import duties, excises, &c., would change their system, and reduce the imposts to a fair standard, there is no reason to doubt but that the extent to which its consumption would be carried, beyond what it is under the present system, would more than indemnify them for any loss they might anticipate in their revenue from the reduction of duty; and would also have the good effect of preventing or breaking up those frauds which are now practised to the extent, it is supposed, of nearly one half of the whole amount consumed in Great Britain and Ireland. Upon this branch of the subject, your committee beg leave to submit some interesting facts, which have recently been brought to public view in a speech of the Hon. D. Jenifer, one of our Representatives in Congress, delivered be-